

Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, August 12, 2011

Note from Commissioner Gist:

1. Districts can use streamlined application process to select [Teacher of the Year](#)

From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE):

2. [PARCC](#) extends period for feedback on Model Content Frameworks
 3. RIDE seeks nominees for [Education Leadership Councils](#)
 4. RIDE seeks comments on [career-technical education](#) proposals
 5. RIDE schedules [NECAP](#) test-coordinator workshops
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Action Item Calendar

August 31: Certification-renewal deadline
September 2: Deadline for Education Leadership Council nominations
September 16: Deadline for nominations for Rhode Island Teacher of the Year
November 15: Deadline for final selections of District Teachers of the Year

Note from Commissioner Gist:

1. Districts can use streamlined application process to select Teacher of the Year

As I noted to you in last week's Field Memo, I would like to have a Teacher of the Year selected from every district in our state this year. District Teachers of the Year become candidates for the 2012 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

If you have already selected or begun the selection process for your District Teacher of the Year, you should be able to make the September 16 application deadline. I realize that the September 16 deadline will be difficult to meet if you have not yet begun the selection process.

In order to help *all* districts select a 2012 District Teacher of the Year, I am extending the deadline for selection of 2012 District Teachers of the Year to November 15. District Teachers of the Year selected after the September 16 deadline will not be candidates for Rhode Island Teacher of the Year; however, we will honor all Teachers of the Year during our annual

Celebration of Educator Excellence in the spring. We want every district to be able to join this wonderful celebration to honor educators from across the whole state!

If you cannot meet the September 16 deadline, I encourage you to use a streamlined application process, including the teachers' resumes, letters of reference, evaluations (if available in your schools) and any other material you think may be relevant. I also encourage you to set up a broadly representative committee to make the award selection. We will post a sample streamlined application on our Web site next week, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Recognition/default.aspx>

Please feel free to get back to me if you have any questions about the Teacher of the Year program. I hope to see a 2012 Teacher of the Year from every district!

From RIDE:

2. PARCC extends period for feedback on Model Content Frameworks

Please see this notice from our Office of Instructional, Assessment, and Curriculum:

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has extended the deadline for public review and feedback of the Model Content Frameworks for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The review period will now extend until **Tuesday, August 30**, to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to make their voices heard.

We strongly encourage educators to review and give feedback on the Content Frameworks, as they provide guidance for the development of the PARCC assessment components. The frameworks and the feedback survey form can be found at:

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks>.

Thank you for taking your time to support the PARCC initiative and for ensuring that Rhode Island voices are represented.

3. RIDE seeks nominees for Education Leadership Councils

Please see this message from our Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

Three years ago, RIDE established the Education Leadership Councils (ELCs) in literacy, mathematics, science, and instructional technology. The ELC members have become critical partners with RIDE as we continue to move forward with our educational initiatives. The focus of the Education Leadership Councils is threefold: 1) to increase the knowledge and use of the state standards as they influence curriculum, instruction, and local assessment; 2) to clarify and strengthen the role and supports provided by professional-development organizations and RIDE; and 3) to serve as an advisory resource for RIDE in all aspects of the content they represent.

We are thankful to the educators who have given their time and expertise to serve on the various Education Leadership Councils. As our work toward improving education for our students continues throughout the state, we are at a point in time where we would like to revisit the composition of our ELC membership. Over time, we have had members retire, change positions, or acquire new responsibilities that have not permitted their active participation. For those reasons, we would like to give other educators the opportunity to be engaged in the discussions and give those who have served the opportunity to be relieved of their duties.

Therefore, we are seeking recommendations of candidates to be considered for all of the Rhode Island Education Leadership Councils. The councils will continue to be made up of teachers and administrators (K -12) and higher education, as well as leaders from Rhode Island educational organizations that have a deep understanding of their content's curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Candidates should be able to meet the following criteria:

- work intensively with a team of education professionals;
- make a commitment to attend ELC meetings (4-6 meetings held approximately every two months from 4 - 6 p.m. at RIDE or other locations around the state); and
- offer current and direct experience to the content and skills focus of the specific ELC.

We encourage you to forward a recommendation for someone within your district who you think will make a positive contribution to any of the ELCs. This recommendation may include re-nominating your current ELC representative. Consider the availability of your nominee(s) in that we need firm commitments to ensure the councils are vital, active, and effective.

Please complete the nomination form and submit it to RIDE via e-mail by **September 2**. The form can be found at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/DOCS/documents/ELC_Nomination_Form-Summer_2011.pdf.

All nominations will be reviewed in order to ensure that the ELC memberships include a blend of experts and LEA representation for their respective councils. Further information regarding first meetings will be forthcoming, as will an announcement that includes all of the ELC memberships.

4. RIDE seeks comments on career-technical education proposals

Please see this notice from our Office of Multiple Pathways:

Please be advised that, along with the Board of Regents, we have begun *re-visioning* regulations for a statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) delivery system. A central principle of the proposed regulations is that all students will be provided with

equitable access to high quality CTE programs of study that prepare students for postsecondary education and training and provide them with the academic and technical skills required for success in their chosen career. Our goal is to develop a CTE delivery system that is designed to meet the needs of students and families, business and industry, and our regional economy.

In preparation for writing a draft set of regulations, we are seeking input from key stakeholders about the proposed principles and associated strategies. To review and comment on the three basic principles with associated strategies and proposed intentions, please click here to go to Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CTEPrinciplesSurvey>.

If the link does not work you can cut and paste the link into your browser address bar. If you wish to view the full document shared with the Board of Regents, please use this link to the RIDE Web site:

www.ride.ri.gov/highschoolreform/.

You will find the principles document in the middle of the page. We invite and strongly encourage you respond to this request and to forward this e-mail to your constituents for their input.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to extending invitations for your added input during informational sessions that are being planned for the coming weeks.

5. RIDE schedules NECAP test-coordinator workshops

Please see the following message from the Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

RIDE will offer three face-to-face workshops for district- and school-level test coordinators next month. The workshops will provide the important details associated with the coordination and administration of the grades 3 through 8 and 11 NECAP mathematics, reading, and writing tests. These workshops will also provide attendees with updates and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates, times, locations, and registration instructions for the test administration workshops are included below. Please sign up for only one workshop:

- September 8 @ 9 – 11 a.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick
- September 8 @ 1 – 3 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel
- September 9 @ 9 – 11 a.m., Providence Marriott Downtown, 1 Orms St.

To register for a workshop, go online to:

<http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>

You may also register in-person on the day of each workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley (kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov, 222-8494).

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/fieldmemos/default.aspx>